

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 23 and 24 have been amended for purposes of further clarity. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at page 17, line 22 to page 18, line 13 of the present specification and in Figure 1.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge Applicants' claim to domestic priority and confirm receipt of the verified English translation filed on January 9, 2001 and November 14, 2000 in Provisional Application Nos. 60/216,517 and 60/216,519, respectively. Copies of the verified English translations of the provisional applications were filed on December 22, 2004.

In addition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicated whether the drawings filed on September 4, 2001 are acceptable.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential steps. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the correlation step between the claimed intent of the method and the liberated iodine concentration as determined by the measurement of light transmittance is omitted.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that the halogen concentration is calculated based on the quantity of liberated iodine determined by measuring the light transmittance. *See e.g.*, pages 17 and 18 of the present specification. However, without acquiescing in the merits of the rejection and to advance prosecution, claims 1 and 7 have been

amended to recite "calculating the halogen concentration in the gas from the quantity of iodine liberated" for purposes of further clarity.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Response to Rejection of Claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that specific structural relationships between the claimed elements is omitted.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that the claims do not omit essential structural cooperative relationships of elements necessary to practice the invention. However, without acquiescing in the merits of the rejection and to advance prosecution, claims 23 and 24 have been amended for purposes of further clarity.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Response to Rejection of Claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that claims 23 and 24 recite several elements that provide very minimal structural specificity to the claimed element. The Examiner, for example, inquires what the structural description of the reaction section is: a test tube, chamber or conduit? Also, the Examiner suggests that Applicants might consider using means-plus-function language.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Initially, it is respectfully submitted that it appears that the Examiner is equating breadth with indefiniteness. The fact that a claim is broad, does not necessitate a rejection for indefiniteness reasons (see MPEP §2173.04).

Claims 23 and 24 recite a reaction section, a liquid feed pump, an introduction tube, a gas flow rate controller, a gas-liquid separation section, a measurement section and a detector. We believe that the recitations of claims 23 and 24 are clear, and that no further structural specificity needs to be recited, particularly since the addition of further structure would unduly narrow the scope of the claims. Therefore, it is submitted that the claimed recitations clearly satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and further amending the claims, to recite additional structural specificity, would unduly narrow the scope of the claim.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

At pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Wu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,040,915).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that Wu et al. does not teach the present invention.

Wu et al. is directed to an analysis method for gases and an apparatus. The apparatus of Wu et al. comprises a sample gas line 31, a sample cell 2, a differential pressure gauge 36 connected to an exhaust gas line 33, a control valve 39 in an exhaust gas line 37 and an exhaust pump 41. The sample gas line 31 introduces a gas to be measured into the sample cell 2, the gas is removed from the sample cell 2 via exhaust lines 33 and 37. A reference gas line 32 introduces a reference gas into reference cell 3, which is removed from the reference cell 3

via exhaust lines 34 and 38.

In the present invention, a liquid feed pump and a gas flow rate controller connected to an introduction tube introduces a metal iodide-containing solution and a halogen-containing gas, respectively, into a single reaction section. Therefore, the exhaust pump 41 of Wu et al. does not correspond to the liquid feed pump of the present invention. That is, in Wu et al., both samples are samples of gas and the pressure in the exhaust lines are adjusted by the control valves and pressure gauges. In contrast, in the present invention, a liquid feed pump is used because a solution is introduced into the reaction section.

In addition, Wu et al. does not disclose a component corresponding to the reaction section of the present invention. That is, the gas from sample gas line 31 and the gas from reference gas line 32 of Wu et al. are not introduced into the same cell by exhaust pump 41 or control valves 39 and 40. Exhaust pump 41 and control valves 39 and 40 are not connected to the gas line 31 and 32, and actually removes gases from the individual cells rather than introducing the gases into cells. Thus, cells 2 and 3 of Wu et al. do not correspond to the reaction section of the present invention.

Further, control valves 39 and 40 of Wu et al. do not correspond to the gas flow rate controller of the present invention because the control valves are not connected to a gas introducing line, whereas the gas flow rate controller of the present invention is connected to the introduction tube.

Hence, Wu et al. does not anticipate claims 23 or 24 because Wu et al. does not teach each and every element of the claims.

Moreover, each of claims 25 and 26 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 23 and 24.

Therefore, these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 23 and 24.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

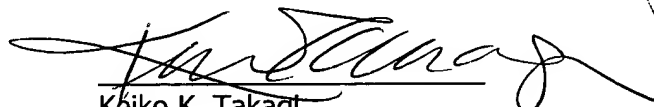
V. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 and §102 rejections, and allowance of claims 1-12 and 23-26 are respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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